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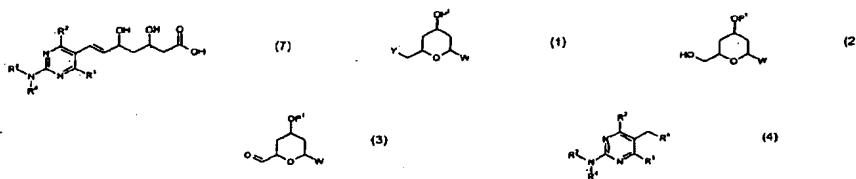
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(54) Title: PROCESS AND INTERMEDIATE COMPOUNDS USEFUL IN THE PREPARATION OF STATINS, PARTICULARLY ROSUVASTATIN



(57) Abstract: There is provided a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (7) wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents an alkyl group; R<sup>2</sup> represents an aryl group; R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a protecting group or an alkyl group; and R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen, a protecting group or a SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>5</sup> group where R<sup>5</sup> is an alkyl group, which comprises a) hydroxylating a compound of formula (1) wherein Y represents a halo group; P<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen or a protecting group, and W represents =O or -OP<sup>2</sup>, in which P<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen or a protecting group, to give a compound of formula (2), b) oxidising the compound of formula (2) to give a compound of formula (3), c) coupling the compound of formula (3) with a compound of formula (4), wherein R<sup>3</sup> represents a protecting group or an alkyl group; R<sup>4</sup> represents a protecting group or a SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>5</sup> group where R<sup>5</sup> is an alkyl group; and R<sup>6</sup> represents (PR<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup>)<sup>+</sup>X<sup>-</sup> or P(=O)R<sup>7</sup>R<sup>8</sup> in which X is an anion and R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> each independently is an alkyl, aryl.